A STUDY OF PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MSMEs IN DARBHANGA DISTRICT

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A STUDY OF PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP : With special reference to MSMEs in Darbhanga District

INTRODUCTION

Women entrepreneurship is pivot to any country's inclusive and sustainable economic development. They are recognized as the new engines of growth. It significantly impacts the urban centers and the rural population where the paternal affects.

The sixth economic census is the most cited data in the literature on women entrepreneurship in India. It reveals that out of the 58.5 million business, only 8.05 million were owned by women, which is a mere 13.76 percent of women among the total number of entrepreneurs in India. As per the female entrepreneurship index, out of 77 countries covered, India ranks 70th. Moreover, as per the August 2019 report of the International Finance Corporation, India ranks third among countries reporting gender gaps in business. Therefore, the need to accelerate women entrepreneurship in the country is immense, and this must be in both the quantity and quality of the start-up and enterprises established by the womenfolk.

The women entrepreneurship can be considered a possible approach to economic empowerment of women. The status of women is intimately connected with their economic position which in turn, depends upon right roles and opportunities for their participation in economic activities. The scope of women's career has expanded and it is no longer limited only to household chores but crossed all banners and have entered into almost every field. The hidden entrepreneurial potential of women has gradually been changing. In Mithila region, women entrepreneurs represent a group of women who have broken away from the beaten track and have explore new avenues of economic participation throughout MSMEs.

For a developing economy like Mithilanchal, a region of north Bihar, which is striving to move from agricultural economy to an industrial society, entrepreneurship has an important role to play. Moreover, due to chronic deficiencies of infrastructure and capital MSMEs are not growing but development of MSMEs in this region will be helpful to employment generation of rural people particularly women. At present, in women- led enterprises, the support from the Government has been enormous. The Government of India has also initiated various flagship programmers to facilitate women entrepreneurs, such as Stand-up India. The Stand-up India scheme aims at promoting entrepreneurship among women and SC and ST communities. The system is anchored by the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance. Under this scheme, bank loans between rupees 10 lakh and rupees 1 crore to at list one scheduled caste (SC) or scheduled tribes (ST) borrower and at least one women borrower per bank branch for setting up a Greenfield enterprise. The enterprise may be manufacturing, services, or trading sector. Another initiative by the Government to provide marketing support to women entrepreneurs is mahila e-Hart an online marketing platform. Pradhan Mantri Mudra yojana is another scheme of the Government of India, which provides access to institutional finance to micro/small businesses, under which interested women entrepreneurs can now avail funds up to rupees 10 lakh to start a small or micro-enterprise. Keeping in view of this micro concept, we would like to study under a research work for problems and prospects of women entrepreneurship with special reference to MSMEs in Darbhanga District, the heart of Mithila region of Bihar because this region faces several problems of draught and flood so MSMEs plays a vital role in accelerating the economy of Mithila region.

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REVIEW OF LITRETURE

The Indian MSME sector in the backbone of the national economic structure and has unresistingly acted as the bulwark for the Indian economy, providing it resilience to ward off global economy shocks and adversities the MSME sector has emerged as a highly vibrant and dynamic sector of the Indian economy over the last five decades. It contributes significantly in the economic and social development of the country by fostering entrepreneurship and generating largest employment opportunities at comparatively lower capital cost, next only to agriculture. MSME sector has play a much bigger role in employment generation of women entrepreneur. Women entrepreneurship plays a significant role in the economic development of a region. This study aims to analyze the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs and explore the prospects for their growth and success. The government, NGOs, and banks institution facilitate to satisfy the challenges by providing adequate support services, produce market each regionally and internationally for female entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurship isn't for everyone. It needed the conventional operating hour's job. It was frustrating and nerve-wracking occasionally. The challenges faced by women entrepreneurs and the impact of the government programmers to encourage women entrepreneurs. Till now, a number of researchers have worked on problem and prospects of women entrepreneurship. In proposed research work we would like to studies various aspects of problems and prospects of women entrepreneurship particularly in Darbhanga Districts of Bihar with special reference to MSME sector. A brief review of work done in this context is given below: -

1. Sahu, S., & Pradhan, S. (2016): In his research titled "Challenges faced by women entrepreneurs running micro enterprises: a study of Cuttack District" focused on the fact that the despite government has lunched many developmental programs for increasing entrepreneurship the women micro entrepreneurs in Cuttack but they have not been able to exploit the resources at a fullest level. He concluded that lack of awareness about the policies and programmes of Government. About the entrepreneurship is major issue in Cuttack District.

2. Khan, N., & Bhatt, A. A. (2014): In his research titled "Role of women in micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME)" studied the problem faced by women entrepreneurs in India, present scenario of women owned SMEs and examined scheme and initiative taken by Government for women owned SMEs. He concluded that the Government sponsored development activities have benefited. The role of women entrepreneur in economic development is also being recognized and steps are being taken to promote women entrepreneurship,

3. Kumar, P., & Kumar, D. (2014) : In the study of "women entrepreneurship and MSME in North India" examined the development of women entrepreneurs in MSME in India and analyzed women participation in entrepreneurial activities. He concluded that women that are involves in enterprise are better off compared to those that are not realizing the importance of women entrepreneurship, India Government has taken several steps to encourage women getting involved in various MSMEs.

4. Yadav, J. (2014) : In his paper titled "women and entrepreneurship" emphasised on women entrepreneurs in India and problem faced by them. He is concluded that women can play an important role in the growth of Indian economy. They have that caliber and education. All they need is suitable environment and motion.

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5. Singh, A., & Raina, M. (2013) : In the paper "women entrepreneurs in micro small and medium enterprises" analyzed the problems and challenges faced by women entrepreneurs. This article focused on various training and support services provided by Government but due to lack of awareness women are not able to access these services. He is concluded that Government policy need to be more women centric in regards of women entrepreneurs most be addressed by the Government and more awareness must be created by Government.

6. Shah H, (2013) : In her article "Creating an enabling environment for women's entrepreneurship in India" suggested strategies and polices which create enable environment for women entrepreneur. Major Emphasis on govt. efforts, scheme and programmes to support women entrepreneur. The study provides the range of recommendation to promote women entrepreneur like role of government, supporting organization, access to finance, market, infrastructure, technology. This research mainly emphasis on policies, schemes and facilities provided by government to women entrepreneur.

7. Kumbhar V, (2013): In his paper "Some critical issues of women entrepreneurship in rural India" performed a study which reveals critical issues of women entrepreneurship in rural India. Problems they are facing like absence of definite agenda of life, absence of balance between family, financial problem, no direct ownership of property and various other issues regarding women entrepreneurship in India. He concluded that there is need of continuous attempt to inspire, encourage and motivate women entrepreneurs. Awareness programmes should be conducted on mass scale to create awareness among women, there is need of continuous attempt to inspire, encourage and motivate women entrepreneurs. Awareness programs should be conducted on mass scale to create awareness among women.

8. Zvezdana, O, (2013): In his research titled "Assessment of the environment for women entrepreneurship" focused on challenges faced by women entrepreneurs. He concluded that in order to improve the status of women entrepreneurs and the environment where they Operate, it is necessary to examine their experiences in business, attitudes, motives and barriers encountered in business or to examine what discourages them to get into the business.

9. Chander, S, (2013): In his paper titled "Study of financial problems of women Entrepreneurs" identified the various financial obstacles faced by women entrepreneur during start up age and running up their enterprises. This study stated that women are facing lack of economic power. Problems faced by women entrepreneur are classified into different types: 1. obtaining start-up capital. 2. Reluctance of financial institution in granting credit facilities. 3. lack of awareness of financial scheme and facilities 4. shortage of finance. 5. Economic incredibility of women. 6. Lacks of collateral security and margin money to secure the money borrowed. So in overcoming these obstacles the government, financial institution, and policy maker should take necessary steps to create awareness among women and to make them financially strong.

10. Jayen, K,T, (2013) : In his paper titled "Obstacles faced by women Entrepreneurs in India" describes the experiences, initiatives & obstacles faced by a woman entrepreneur. For this purpose, the researcher has collected data from the secondary source in form of various research papers, websites and books. In addition to this the researcher has placed his own observations regarding the same. The paper stated that, it's difficult for a woman to start and run the business in India as there are a lot of obstacles. But with family support, enthusiasm, courage and dedicated efforts women can start the business. The awareness among the women regarding education has increased plus government has also introduced certain programs and scheme to develop women entrepreneurship so future of women entrepreneurs is bright in India.

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11. Singh, S, E, (2013) :. Constructed a case study on empowerment of rural women through entrepreneurship development. They studied the impact of entrepreneurship development on rural women working in micro enterprises and reached a conclusion that rural women can be empowered through the development of entrepreneurship qualities in them.

12. Mohammad, J,K, and Gouda, S, (2014) : In their research paper titled Globalization and Policy Support for MSMEs, focused on the determinants influencing the internationalization of MSMEs in India. They also emphasized on the need to provide skill development and entrepreneurship development training to the first- generation entrepreneurs.

13. Gangaiah, B, and Yasmeen, V, (2014) : In their paper titled Women Empowerment through Micro Enterprises - A study of Y.S.R District, A.P concluded that women have attained economic, social and psychological empowerment after starting the micro- enterprises.

14.Jain, R, (2015): In her research on problems and prospects of 123 Small Scale Jain Community Women Entrepreneurs concluded that Women are ready to face the challenges associated with setting up and running a business. The women are into business not for survival but to satisfy their inner urge of creativity and to prove their capabilities.

15.Gurria, A. (2012) : In the OECD publication has said that small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are engines of growth, jobs and social cohesion. He has emphasized that the creation, survival and growth of SMEs is often hampered by access to finance, a challenge that is at the centre of this scoreboard of financing small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurs. The OECD has pioneered efforts to develop data and statistical information on SMEs.

In a country like India, where due to its soaring population Okun's law (Knoteck, 2007)is appositely applicable which suggests growth slowdown coincides with rising unemployment, problem solving to unemployment is of utmost importance so that the economic growth can be balanced.

Numerous arguments support that unemployment can be one of the major reasons which make policymakers to accentuate the importance of entrepreneurship and make attempts to encourage larger section of the society including youth, SC, ST, women and retired employees to take up entrepreneurship as an occupation by introducing numerous recent schemes like Start-up India, Make in India, Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development (TREAD), Stand- up India, Micro Units Development and Refinancing Agency Scheme (MUDRA), Mahila Coir Scheme and many more. Besides unemployment being the most important driving force for the policymakers to think and rethink about ways in which the concept of entrepreneurship can be instilled among the larger section of the society, there are many other factors which has lead to this. The main reasons for this can be listed as under: -.

- Entrepreneurship becomes a medium to commence innovation and hence accelerates growth in the given economy (Kritikos, 2014).
- Entrepreneurship intensifies the level of competition among the industrial players at a given point of time ((Kritikos, 2014).
- New businesses boost productivity (Kritikos, 2014).
- Entrepreneurship becomes instrumental in bringing structural change in existing market by replacing sclerotic firms and with the introduction of whole new set of customers with varied set of needs and hence becomes the engine of future growth process (Kritikos, 2014).

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- Shrinking regularized employment inhibits employment opportunities to majority of youth which becomes a driving force for them to start looking for alternatives that provides the opportunity to meet their need of income generation – starting a new venture and enter into the world of entrepreneurship becomes the most promising alternative for them which they look for.

- Growth of knowledge economy has generated such market opportunities which can be more effectively developed by new firms than the existing firms. The shift to knowledge based economic activity is believed to be key factor for the metamorphosis of economy of a nation to entrepreneurial economy (Stam & Garnsey, 2007).

India is one of the largest and fastest growing economies. The above mentioned factors have also driven India to explore opportunities with respect to entrepreneurship for an uninterrupted growth of the nation. To have an unambiguous conceptual understanding let us discuss few important definitions pertaining to this study.98 per cent of Indian women entrepreneurs are in micro-enterprises (MSME, 2012), this fact marks the pertinent role MSME sector plays to project the entrepreneurial potential the 'better half'1 (48 per cent of women in Indian Population as per Census 2001) of the Indian society. It is clear from the above reviews, the researcher have concentrated to the problem of women entrepreneurship and her prospects in MSME sector in Darbhanga District of Bihar which is popularly known as heart of Mithilalanchal.

STATEMENT OF RESEARCH PROBLEM

It is evident that our state Bihar is a developing state in India where majority of population engaged in agricultural activities. The culture of women entrepreneurship of Bihar is not rich. Total 7.53 percent of women entrepreneurs out of total of 1.17 Crore MSMEs in Bihar. This data shows the less percentage of women entrepreneur engaged in MSMEs sector. We are unable to understand the root causes of this gap but Bihar is a dire need of a state specific empirical survey with women entrepreneurs as a focal point. Upon this we would like to carry out a research work to study problems and prospects of women entrepreneurship in MSMEs of Darbhanga District. After study of various literature regarding women entrepreneurship, following research questions are emerged on my front :

1. What is the profile of the business run by women entrepreneurs in Bihar?
2. What are the reasons responsible for women to join or established start-up business?
3. What is the size of women owned business in Darbhanga District?
4. What is the ratio of registered and unregistered firm in case of women owned business from the total number of samples collected?
5. What are the problems of women entrepreneurs in Bihar particularly of Darbhanga District?
6. What are the various prospects for women entrepreneurs in Darbhanga district as a market and a culture?

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IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

Women entrepreneurship can make a particularly strong contribution to the economic well-being of the family and communities, poverty reduction and women's empowerment, thus contributing to the millennium development goals. Thus, Govt. across the world as well as various developmental organizations are actively under taking promotion of women entrepreneurs through various scheme, incentives and promotion measures. Now a days entrepreneurial activity are growing in Bihar particularly in Darbhanga District for solving unemployment problems. Women also wants to stand on own leg through entrepreneurship. Various areas such as Mithila paintings, silk weaving, hand printed, wood work, floor covering, Agarbatti making, Masroom farming etc. are the scope of entrepreneurship under MSMEs sector but women entrepreneur facing various problem for smooth running business.
Keeping in view the above facts, this research work would be beneficial to women entrepreneur engaged in MSMEs sector and Government for making policy decisions regarding betterment of women. This will be also helpful for "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" mission of Government of India.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The proposed study is under taken with the following specific objectives-

1. To study the evolution and development of entrepreneurship in India and Bihar with special reference to women entrepreneurship.
2. To identify of spread of the women run business amongst MSMEs.
3. To identify the major factors influencing the women entrepreneur in MSMEs sector in Bihar particularly in Darbhanga District.
4. To find out major problems of women entrepreneur in MSMEs sector in Bihar particularly in Darbhanga District.
5. To identify prospects for women entrepreneurs in Darbhanga District.
6.To suggest remedial measures for development of women entrepreneurship in Darbhanga District.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

The hypothesis of the proposed research work is :
H01. There is no significant impact of economic factors on development of selected women entrepreneurs engaged in MSMEs sector.
H02. There is no significant influence of education on selected women entrepreneurs engaged in MSMEs sector.
H03. There is no significant influence of training on selected women entrepreneurs engaged in MSMEs sector.
H04. There is no significant influence of Family background on selected women entrepreneurs engaged in MSMEs sector.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study would be based on an empirical survey by the researcher in Darbhanga District, the heart of Mithila region of Bihar. This study aims to identify the problems and prospects of women entrepreneurs in various industries in MSMEs sectors. Keeping in view, the objectives of research work we would be collected primary and secondary data of every blocks of Darbhanga District according to the needs of the study.

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RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The methodology deals with the population of the study, methods of data collection, pre testing, sampling plan, sample size, types of data used for research, techniques of data collection, hypothesis and statistical tools applied.

The study will use both primary and secondary sources for collecting required data pertaining to research problem. Primary data would be collected through questionnaire method. The secondary data will be collected from various sources such as journals, books, magazines, news papers, websites and other previous studies.

After the collection of data it will be edited as per the requirement the present research work and will be presented in simple tables, chart, graph and figures. There after the edited data will be analyzed by various statistical tools such as average, co- relation etc as per requirement. We will also use SPSS software in order to analyzing the data.

PLAN OF WORK

The proposed research work will be organized under following chapters :

Chapter 1: Introduction: This chapter will be introductory in nature. It will include to a brief idea on problem to be studied, justification of the study, hypothesis made, scope of the study, research methodology and plan of the study.

Chapter 2: Review of Literature: This chapter will be highlighted previous study related to problems and prospects of women Entrepreneurship.

Chapter 3: Development of Entrepreneurship in India – An Overview: This chapter devoted Concept of Entrepreneurship, History of Entrepreneurship in India, Growth of Entrepreneurship in India, Entrepreneurship Development program initiated by Government of India, Scope of Entrepreneurship Development in India.

Chapter 4: Women Entrepreneurship in MSMEs in Bihar: In this chapter we would like to discuss about concept of MSMEs, Contribution of MSMEs sector in Bihar, Status of Women Entrepreneurship in MSME in Bihar, Role of Government of Bihar for promoting women Entrepreneurship in MSMEs Sector.

Chapter 5: Problems and Prospects of Women Entrepreneurship with special reference to MSMEs in Darbhanga District: In the fifth chapter problems and prospects of women Entrepreneurship in MSME in Darbhanga District of Bihar will be elaborated with the help of collection of data.

Chapter 6: Conclusions and Suggestions: The last chapter will be present summary of the findings of the study and put forth suggestions for solving the problems of Women Entrepreneurship in MSMEs sector in Darbhanga District and also will be suggested the prospects of women Entrepreneurship in MSMEs in Darbhanga District.

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